



March 2021 eBulletin

TOP O' THE MORNIN'!

An Irish blessing

St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner! Here is an Irish wish for you:



May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Varied Valentines

"I Hate Men" — That no-holds-barred tune from the 1948 Broadway smash *Kiss Me Kate* was a surprise hit at our **Valentine's Hangout**, a fun afternoon attended on Zoom by some 40 MCLL members. The singer was MCLLer and former Montreal Symphony Orchestra violinist **Sherry Steinberg**, game to share the fruits of her recent online voice lessons. Actor **Gabrielle Soskin** touched hearts by reading a poem written by **David Schurman** to honour his wife, **Judith**, who recently passed away. Interspersed with periods of friendly chat were music videos, more beautifully-delivered readings, poems, and even a mid-19th-century love poem read by **Sahra Cohen**. The lively Sunday get-

together ended on a high, with audio of Janis Joplin belting out *Piece of My Heart*.

Science, Crime and Literature

That's the title of the speech **Dr. Joe Schwarcz** will be giving at our second virtual **Annual General Meeting on Friday, March 26 at 10 a.m.** The director of McGill's Office for Science and Society is known to be an entertaining speaker. A Zoom link will go out in coming weeks.



Considering a hybrid learning model

Results of a survey sent to MCLL moderators/lecturers and to participants early in February are now being assessed, as we move into a second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of our new **Hybrid Task Force**, made up of **Martin Coles, Ana Milic, Jeff Sidel** and **Time Skene**, asked: Once the pandemic is over, should we go back to a traditional in-person learning model, or should we explore enhanced use of technology as a means of delivering services both in-class and through distance learning? The idea of a hybrid learning model seems more and more likely as we continue to attract members from other cities, provinces and even countries. A recommendation and plan will be shared soon with the MCLL Executive and Council.

MCLLer on SCS advisory board

MCLL **Past President Irwin Kuzmarov** has been appointed to the Faculty Advisory Board of the School of Continuing Studies, responsible for carrying out the fund-raising activities of the SCS. Dr. Kuzmarov notes that the relationship between SCS and MCLL is strengthened as collaboration of this kind becomes more extensive.

Donors can help widen MCLL's reach

MCLL has launched an ambitious project on McGill's **Seeds of Change** crowdfunding platform. Our project aims to help MCLL move to a virtual model and expand the reach of our programs. Your donations will support, among other things, purchase of laptops and tablets for individuals in need, and acquisition of more Zoom licenses for MCLL. With McGill's annual day of giving, **McGill24**, coming up on **Wednesday, March 10**, it's the perfect time to click on our Seeds of Change link [here](#).

The website shows our fundraising goal and tracks the progress we are making toward reaching it.

Want to improve your French?

MCLL works with a French-language seniors' organization called **Projet changement**. to help members improve their conversation skills in their second language. If you are interested in brushing up on your French, we might be able to match you up with a Projet changement member who wants to improve their English. As long as we are in pandemic conditions, there will be no group meetings but individual members can make arrangements to meet up (in person or over the phone, Skype, Zoom etc.). We will provide you with the contact information for a potential partner.

At present three Projet changement members are looking to find a conversation partner from MCLL. If you are interested, contact Lorne Huston at parlonsfrançais.mcll@mcgill.ca. For more information check out the [Projet changement website](#).

A salute to office volunteers

Hats off to the office volunteers who look after emails and phone messages for MCLL from their homes, replying to questions and helping Ana as needed. They do such a good job dealing with problems ranging from registration at Friday lectures, to requests to switch study groups, that people calling MCLL or emailing us think they're reaching our office directly! Led by volunteer coordinator **Susan Biggs**, team members are **Mary Bialek, Sally Cooper, Mary Corner, Helen Forsyth, Astri Thorvik, Anne Tittler** and **Carol Wares**.

News, opinions and views on any MCLL-related topic are most welcome. Just contact Susan Purcell, the eBulletin editor, at suepurcell@videotron.ca, or call her at (514) 488-3503.

McGill Community for Lifelong Learning

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